

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR

A MONTHLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE GRACE REFORMED CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL.

VOLUME III.

FORT WAYNE, IND., FEBRUARY, 1891.

NUMBER 2.

THE RELIGIOUS STATUS OF FORT WAYNE.

Our city has many costly and beautiful church buildings, but withal we are far from having reached a millennial day of gospel enlightenment and grace. In the judgment of many who are competent to know, the religious status of Fort Wayne is anything but flattering. For some months past many of our churches have been engaged in special evangelistic work, but so far the harvest has been meager. The churches have not been moved by the mighty power of God, and the conversions have been comparatively few. The laborers have gone forth to the harvest, and shall it be that they shall return empty-handed? Sinners seem to be securely entrenched in their indifference and perverseness of heart, and God's people do not seem to be equal to the task. Something must be wrong somewhere. Joshua and his armies took the city of Jericho without any difficulty, but at last they were shamefully defeated. Something was wrong. God's people were at fault. God is willing to-day to give the victory unto his people. "The Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

It is altogether probable that Fort Wayne has more than twenty thousand people who have no church homes and who are out of Christ. Of this vast multitude of unsaved souls thousands should have been gathered into the kingdom during these seasons of special efforts. But we fear, from present indications, this will not be so. How sad and distressing the thought. So many out of Christ, and so few are being saved. Something seems to be all wrong somewhere. Is it true that Israel has sinned, and transgressed the covenant of God? We do not want to be an alarmist, but we greatly fear that God's people have formed unholy alliances with the world, and have themselves gone into the ways of the transgressors, and thus have lost their influence with the unsaved, and are grieving the Holy Ghost.

The church has become thoroughly conformed to and engrossed with the world. It has lowered its standard of Christian living, so that it becomes almost impossible to draw a line of distinction between professors and non-professors of religion. When God's

people will once stoop to lust after the carnal ways of the world, then our houses of worship and the sacred ordinances of the church shall be left unto us desolate.

One of the chief hindrances in evangelistic work to-day, and as found right here in our city, lies in the want of consecrated and united effort on the part of the Lord's professed followers. And this is so, not because the churches have no faith in the efficacy of evangelistic work, but mainly because God's people are actuated,

First by a spirit of indifference and unwillingness. Soul saving is not a work of paramount importance to their hearts. They have time and talent which they could without any great inconvenience to themselves readily devote to this great end, but they will not. They are indifferent. "What if souls are lost, who cares?" This is the language of their lips. What shameful and ignominious denial this is of the Lord Jesus.

A second reason why many of God's people cannot be enlisted in evangelistic work is because they are unwilling to give any portion of their time and attention to this cause. Business claims not only first, but their whole attention. No time for soul saving. They are poor deluded souls. They forget that God is able to take care of their business for them, much better than they are, and that their first business of life is to seek after God's kingdom and his righteousness, and that if they will do so, all other things shall be added unto them. Give your first time and concern to soul saving and the Lord's service, and then you have the assurance, that One, at whose hands is the disposal of all things will take care of your business.

A third reason why some of God's professed children will not consent to join heartily in evangelistic work is because their hearts are engrossed with worldly pleasures and amusements. They have gone in the way of the "Rich Fool," and have adopted his motto, "Eat, Drink, and Be Merry." We often hear evangelists relate how their work in certain churches has been frustrated by the indifference and lukewarmness of professed Christians. How, when in the very midst of gracious seasons of grace, prominent members of the church would indulge in parties, at which there was wine-drinking,

card-playing, and dancing; and then as a logical sequence the work of the Holy Spirit was interfered with. The Holy Ghost was grieved. What inconsiderateness. Soul's trembling in the balances, and God's people grieving the spirit and driving him away from the church and from the hearts of awakened sinners. The church that comes down to the level with the world and gives itself over to such carnality, must not suppose for a moment that it will be in the hands of God, a soul-saving church. Now these things are not true alone of churches outside of Fort Wayne, they are true of many churches right here in our own city. This is possibly the greatest curse of our churches. The Lord's people given over to dancing, card-playing, wine-drinking, theater-going. Sad, sad, indeed! Hinders to the Lord's work, and not helpers. Will not the churches of Fort Wayne soon have their fill of this iniquity. Will they not soon tumble themselves before God and confess their sins and turn with a new heart unto the Lord, and dedicate themselves, as living sacrifices holy and acceptable unto God. May the God of all grace and power awaken his people to a conviction of their iniquity, and of the reproach which they are bringing upon the church and themselves, and of the perils which they are bringing upon the unsaved, and may there be truly a revival of grace coming to the churches of our city in the near future. In conversation with pastors and prominent workers of some of our churches we find that there is a unanimity of opinion as to the condition and wants of our churches. The world is capturing the church, instead of the church the world. The church, too cold. Too lukewarm. God's people lack in consecration. The church must return to its first love; humble itself before God, if it be so that the Lord may have mercy upon us, and save our people from further reproaches and perils, and bring them into newness of spiritual life and activity, that God's great name may be glorified, and his kingdom come, in the salvation of many souls.

Persons wishing to renew their subscriptions for the *Christian World*, can hand the money to the pastor and he will forward the money to the publishing company.

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR.

25 Cents per Year.

REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, A. M., - - EDITOR.

Board of Managers; REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, F. D. PAULUS, and D. W. SOUDER.

Entered at the postoffice at Fort Wayne, Indiana, as second-class matter. Feb. 7, 1890.

THE Rev. Dr. H. H. Wells, of Cleveland, Ohio, is conducting a series of evangelistic meetings of four weeks in the Presbyterian churches of this city. It was our privilege to attend many of these meetings and we were greatly edified in so doing. The Doctor is a pleasant and forcible speaker. His sermons are logical and scholarly. His style clear and attractive. He enters into his work with a warm heart, and whole soul. He is a man of vast experience, and tells the story of Christ and the Cross with pathos and power. The Lord has been pleased to use this man in leading hundreds and thousands of souls to Christ. Sixteen years ago, while a theological student at Tiffin, Ohio, we had the privilege of attending a series of meetings he conducted there.

We are indebted to Dr. Wells for much of the evangelistic spirit that has been blessing our humble efforts ever since we have entered the ministry, and for this reason we have a very warm love for this brother.

Dr. Wells is laboring very earnestly in our city. If these services are not fruitful in the immediate conversion of as many souls as it was hoped they might be, it is not because there is any lack of zeal on the part of the evangelist, the fault rests with the people. We are certain, however, that if the immediate results are not so apparent, the harvest will be gathered some time. This may be seed time, harvest will surely come. We hope and pray that there may be a great ingathering of souls from this work at a very early day. May the Lord give Dr. Wells health and strength and length of days, that he may continue in his work for many years to come, and lead thousands more to the Lord Jesus,

GRACE CHURCH BAZAAR.

Monday afternoon, Feb. 9th., the ladies of the church held a meeting at the church parlors. At this meeting they decided by a unanimous vote to hold a Bazaar in the near future. Matters were talked over freely and initiatory steps were taken to start the ball rolling.

The time at which the Bazaar shall be held was not definitely fixed, but in all probability about the middle of the month of April. This will give the ladies fully two

months time in which to make their preparations. This will be time enough, but not any too much. All hands will have to get to work.

There were several things upon which the ladies decided at this meeting.

1st. That all the ladies and members and friends of Grace Church be and are kindly solicited to unite in this project so as to make it a success in every particular. We have no doubt but that there will be a full and hearty response to this request. So far the members of Grace Church have always been as one man in every project which was undertaken. The church has moreover always had a hearty cooperation of its numerous friends. Grace Church is now coming to its second great crisis in its history. The inauguration of the project of holding a Bazaar means a move to the front. Grace Church moving to the front and abreast with the other churches of the city. It means a move to the front of the church lot, with an inviting and commodious front to our house of worship, and thus putting the church upon an equality with the other societies of the city. Every one will know the importance of unanimity of heart and hand in such a project as the church is now about to undertake. Every member of Grace church is therefore kindly asked and affectionately implored by the pastor to fall into line with this enterprise of the ladies, being the initiatory step looking forward to the erection, in the near future of our much longed for and prayed for church auditorium.

A second matter determined upon by the ladies at their meeting was, that the officers together with the members of the executive committee of the Ladies Society, should constitute a managing committee for the Bazaar. It will be the province of this committee to appoint sub-committees and perfect arrangements. This committee is composed of the following ladies: Mrs. A. K. Zartman, Mrs. A. M. Henderson, Miss Emma Neireiter, Mrs. Martin Cornet, Mrs. Robert Gavin, Mrs. E. G. Pierce, and Mrs. Geo. Hessert. This committee will hold its first meeting Monday afternoon February 16th, at the church parlors.

Third. That the ladies determined further that on Thursday's of each week, beginning with February 19th, the ladies are to meet at the church parlors for the purpose of doing sewing for the Bazaar. As many as possibly can, are to come in the morning, bringing their lunch with them, and remain all day. The church parlors are centrally located, convenient and will be comfortable.

Fourth. Each lady member and lady

friend of the church is kindly asked to furnish two or more white or gingham aprons for the Bazaar, and any such other articles as will be saleable, and as they can furnish. It will be a very small matter for all of our ladies to make up some articles and donate them for the Bazaar. At the Bazaar given two years ago, there was a great demand for ladies' and children's aprons. The demand could not be supplied. It will be well to lay in a large stock of aprons, both for ladies and children. Can not our ladies of the church solicit aprons and other articles from many of their friends. No doubt many would be glad to furnish something, and thus help the good cause.

Now, remember the sewings at the church parlors, on Thursday of each week. Come in the morning and put in the whole day. The committee will have goods on hand to make up, and work for every one. Further announcements of the Bazaar will be made in later issues of the VISITOR.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY.

Sabbath, February 22, the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, of Grace Church, will celebrate its first anniversary. In the morning at 10:30 the pastor will preach the anniversary sermon. In the evening at 7:30, the anniversary service proper will be held. The following programme has been arranged for this service by the committee appointed for this purpose:

Opening Chant.....Congregation
Invocation and prayer.
Hymn.....Congregation
Scripture reading in concert (bring your Bibles to this meeting.)
Singing.....Choir
Paper—"The Christian Endeavor Movement," Mrs. A. K. Zartman.
Reading—"The Advancing Host".....Lillie Walters
Singing.
Paper—"The Active Member".....Mollie Buckwalter
Paper—"The Associate Member".....
.....Alice Vordermark
Singing.
Recitation—"The Sweetest Gift".....May Cavault
Paper—"Elements of the Pledge" Emma Neireiter
Hymn—"For Christ and the Church" (published in this issue of the Visitor.)
Collection for Missions.....
Closing Hymn.....
Active Members' Pledge, repeated in concert.
Benediction.

Every member of the Society is expected at these services morning and evening. It will be profitable for every member of the Sunday School to be at these services, and it is due the young people in their work that every member and friend of Grace Church should attend these meetings. These services will be interesting to every person. Come and bring your friends.

If you have not already subscribed for the VISITOR for 1891, see to it that you do so at once, lest you may not receive every number.

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Our Church Parlors on East Washington St.,
between Barr and Lafayette streets.

SERVICES.

Sabbath morning,	10:30
Sabbath evening,	7:30
Sunday School,	9:30
Y. P. S. C. E. Prayer meeting Sab. evening	6:30
Prayer meeting Wednesday evening	7:30

Come and welcome to these services.

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A WORD WITH CHRISTIAN ENDEAVORS.

This month our Christian Endeavor Society will pass the first mile stone in its history, and what can we say about Christian Progression? Have we, while helping and showing others the way to Christ, derived the benefit therefrom? Have we been growing in grace? That remains to be answered personally, but surely those who have faithfully kept their pledge have been "growing in grace and knowledge."

While we are yet a very young band of workers, we all have responsibilities resting upon ourselves. There is a very wide field open for our young people to work in, and it ought to be our pleasure to interest strangers in church work. We must ever remember that we have consecrated ourselves to work for "Christ and his Church" and to that end let us be faithful.

God in His infinite mercy has created many beautiful things for us to enjoy. He has promised and given us His great love. "God is love," whereby "in this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him."

If if we love God let us then endeavor to fulfill His commands. It is impossible for all of us to go into foreign lands to teach the gospel to the heathen people, but it is possible to reach the Fort Wayne heathen, and many of them there are in our city.

Our membership comprises twenty-five active, and twelve associate members, and we have our five committees fully equipped for work. Now, let us put on the gospel armor and fight valiantly for the Master's cause. Let us hope and pray that this coming year, may be one of profit to us all, and that we may prosper religiously, as well as socially and morally.

EMMA L. E. NEIREITER.

SALEM CHURCH NOTES.

The pastor preached at the Salem Reformed church Monday evening, February 2nd, remaining in the community the next day to do some pastoral work. He visited the family of Michael Muhns. Mr. Muhn had been quite ill, but was some better. In the afternoon of the same day the pastor called to see Mr. Alex Baltz and family. This gentleman had also been ailing for some time, but was convalescing. During the brief stay with this family the Sacrament of Holy Baptism was administered to the little daughter of these parents.

During the week beginning with Monday, Feb. 16, the pastor expects to hold a series of meetings at the Salem Church. It is hoped that these meetings may result in much good to the people of that community. There are a great many unsaved souls among this people, and it is our prayer that many of them may be brought unto Christ.

The pastor is preaching a series of Sabbath morning sermons to the church. Sabbath morning, February 8th, though the weather was unfavorable, there was a very large attendance. Every member of the church should hear these sermons.

Easter occurs March 29th. There will be services during the week previous, communion on Sabbath morning.

Our Sunday school is having a boom. Good attendance, good interest, and many new scholars.

Applicants for church membership can be received at any of our regular services.

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Y. P. S. C. E. PRAYER-MEETING TOPICS
AND LEADERS.

Feb. 15, "Helping Our Brethren," Josh. i. 10-18; Oscar Miller.

Feb. 22, (Consecration Meeting), "Are We Good Stewards?" I. Peter iv. 7-11; Lillie Walters.

March 1, "God's Care for His Own," Ps. lxxxiv. 11; Eccl. viii. 12; Matt. vi. 33; Anna Vordermark.

March 8, "Obedience in Little Things," I. Sam. xv. 22; II. Kings v. 13; Eugene Mathes.

March 15, "Speak Truly," Matt. ii. 6, Phil. iv. 8; Ps. xxxiv. 13; Clara Piepenbrink.

March 22, "The Right Will Surely Triumph," Rom. viii. 31, 32; II. Chron. xxxii. 7, 8; Albert Bush.

March 29, "Promise Meeting," II. Peter i. 4, II. Cor. vii. 1; Katie Walters.

"FOR CHRIST AND THE CHURCH"

Hymn for Christian Endeavorers.

BY F. W. GRIFFITHS.

Tune—"Battle Hymn of the Republic."

We are coming, Abba, Father, in the spring-time of our youth;

We are joining hands to battle for our Lord and for His truth;

We are marching 'neath the banner of the God of peace and truth;

While Christ is leading on,

Chorus:—

Glory, glory, hallelujah, glory, glory, hallelujah, Glory, glory, hallelujah, for Christ is leading on.

We are coming from New England's pine-clad hills and sunny vales;

We are coming from the Southland, with her palms and flowery dales;

We are coming from Pacific's wave-washed shores and shining gold;

While Christ is leading on.

Chorus.

We are marshalling for battle in the fight against the wrong;

Though our strength may be but feeble, in our Leader we are strong.

And we'll never, never falter, though the strife be hard and long,

While Christ is leading on.

Chorus.

We are pledged for holy warfare, ever watchful here below;

We are clad in gospel armor which will conquer every foe;

Ever forward, never backward—Christ's Endeavors—we'll go,

While Christ is leading on.

Chorus.

Let us then be valiant ever, let us to our pledge be true,

Ever keep our colors flying and our motto e'er in view,

Till we pass before our captain in the final grand review

While Christ is leading on.

Chorus.

The Wednesday evening services held for some time past have been well attended and been very interesting. The gracious work of grace continues among our people, and it may be possible that very soon we shall find it necessary to have services twice or three times during the week.

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